

NSWFA Competition Officiating Policy

Approved 27 July 2016

NSW LEVEL

*This document does not represent an exhaustive record of all policies relating to competitions

SECTION 1 - Definitions

In this policy:

DT means the group of officials responsible for the running of a tournament;

NSWFA Officiating Director means the person appointed by the NSWFA as the NSWFA Officiating Director or, in his or her absence, the Officiating Manager.

Officiating Manager means a person who is on the register of Officiating Managers established pursuant to section 5 of this policy

SECTION 2 – Responsibilities of NSWFA Officiating Director and Officiating Manager

- (a) When present at a competition, the NSWFA Officiating Director is part of the DT and will co-ordinate with other DT members in the operations of the competition. If the NSWFA Officiating Director is not present at a competition, an Officiating Manager, will assume the role and responsibilities of the NSWFA Officiating Director as outlined in this policy and all references in this policy to the NSWFA Officiating Director shall be read as a reference to the Officiating Manager.
- (b) The NSWFA Officiating Director is responsible for:
 - a. assigning and supervising referees for the pools and DE bouts.
 - b. supervising all the referees; and
offering advice to referees on all matters relating to the discharge of their function.
- (c) The NSWFA Officiating Director may, at his or her discretion, replace a referee, before or during a bout, if he or she considers that the referee's judgement has been or may be comprised or that the referee is otherwise incapable of refereeing the bout on its merits by reason of that referee's level of skill or experience.
- (d) The NSWFA Officiating Director will always be the first point of contact for disputes between fencers and referees arising during a bout and will rule on the matter in dispute. The other members of the DT will only be required to become involved if the issue escalates, that is, where the fencer or referee refuse to accept the ruling of the NSWFA Officiating Director, or if the NSWFA Officiating Director deems it necessary to request the assistance of other DT members in making a determination on the matter in dispute.

SECTION 3 – Declining to referee

- (a) A person who has been selected to referee a bout may choose to decline to referee the bout before the commencement of the bout, or cease to preside during a bout, if that person believes that his or her judgement will be or has been compromised. They will immediately inform the NSWFA Officiating Director of their decision and the basis for it.
- (b) The NSWFA Officiating Director will find a replacement, or preside over the bout themselves.

SECTION 4 – Black cards

- (a) When a referee or DT member issues a black card to a fencer and it is protested by the fencer, that carding may only be upheld if all members of the DT who are present are in agreement with the carding.

SECTION 5 – Officiating Managers

- (a) A register, called the Register of Officiating Managers, is to be created and maintained of the members who are assessed by the Directors of NSWFA, or their delegate(s) from time to time, as both qualified and sufficiently responsible to act as a NSWFA Officiating Director, during the absence of the NSWFA Officiating Director, with the same authority of that office, at a competition.
- (b) The register shall include the name of the State Officiating Director from time to time.
- (c) The person performing that function shall be described as the 'Officiating Manager'.
- (d) The role of the 'Officiating Manager' will be the same as that of the 'NSWFA Officiating Director', but only for the duration of the competition. If possible, there will be an 'Officiating Manager' for each weapon contesting on the day.
- (e) The nomination of person(s) from the register for a particular competition and/or weapon may be made by the NSWFA Officiating Director before the competition date and, failing such a nomination, by the 'Director of Fencing Operations', and failing any nomination before a competition's scheduled commencement time, by the DT or a NSWFA Director present or by telephone.
- (f) Members of NSWFA may be recommended to be invited to be registered as eligible Officiating Managers by NSWFA Directors, the State Officiating Director or the Head Coach. NSWFA Directors will vote in relation to each recommended candidate and, if acceptable, they will be invited to be registered. NSWFA Directors will vote in respect of any recommendation for removal of a name from the register, which removal shall be at the absolute discretion of the directors of NSWFA.
- (g) Candidates will be chosen based on the following criteria:
 - Demonstrated experience in refereeing their weapon
 - Objective judgement in refereeing
 - Current refereeing skills as to interpretation in priority weapons
 - Ability to preside under competition pressure, from fencers and spectators
 - Able to communicate with other DT members
 - Ability to make effective determinations of matter in dispute
 - Maturity in the exercise of authority
- (h) The State Officiating Director will circulate to all registered prospective Officiating Managers a roster for upcoming events, and all prospective Officiating Managers will indicate if they are available for selection to act at any one or more events.

- (i) A person should not perform the role of an Officiating Manager in respect of a weapon at a competition if that person is coaching a fencer of that weapon at the competition.